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FREE PRESS ASSOCIATION,

Publishers, Burlington, Vt.

BURLINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 16

## WANTED.

When you want anything, advertise in the new special column of this paper. Some bargains are offered there this week which it will pay you to read about. See page two. This paper has more than 25,000 readers every week and one cent a word will reach them all.

United States Senator Carroll S. Page will be the first man to seek a re-nomination to the Senate under a direct primary system. Judging from recent public comments and their source Senator Page will be stronger under a direct primary than he would have been in a State convention.

## VERMONT'S FIRST SOCIALIST MAYOR.

F. E. Langley of the Barre Times had given his city so successful an administration as mayor during the past year that we in common with other newspapers accepted his reelection as a matter of course. This seems to be a year of surprises, and Barre in addition to awaking from the dry column to the wet by a majority of 16, after many years of non-election, elected Robert Gordon, socialist, mayor by a majority of 16.

The Granite City thus enjoys the distinction of electing as mayor the first socialist ever selected for this position in any Vermont city. It is significant that the Times accepts the result both generously and philosophically. It looks for a year of progress in Barre and pays Mr. Langley's successor the following tribute:

"Barre's new mayor, Robert Gordon, comes into office with a good, clean record as a citizen and as a man. During the campaigns in which he has been advanced as a candidate for office he has conducted himself in a manner above reproach and, whenever possible, has discommenced any efforts in his behalf which were not fair and above board. His record as a candidate has been meritorious at all times, reflecting in large measure the character of the man himself. Mr. Gordon has been known to a considerable part of the people of Barre for many years and by all of them, we believe, he has been held in high esteem. He has been a resident of Barre for a long period and, while not heretofore actively engaged in municipal affairs, has been in a position to be a close observer of conditions. The Times herewith extends its congratulations to the new mayor and hopes for him a successful administration along progressive lines in keeping with the advance of our little municipality."

Mr. Langley is a good citizen as well as a good lawyer, and it is safe to say that Mayor Gordon will have no stronger supporter in every deserving measure than in his predecessor in the mayoralty.

## THE NEW SECRETARY OF WAR.

It is announced that ever since the resignation of Lindley M. Garrison as secretary of war President Wilson has been seeking a lawyer of the Middle West to succeed him at the head of the war department. It looks as though in the choice of Newton D. Baker, former mayor of Cleveland, the President had made a happy selection.

The estimation in which Mr. Baker is held by the President is indicated by the fact now developed that he was offered the position of secretary of the interior department. He did not see it in his way to accept a position in the cabinet at that time, desiring to complete his term as mayor, but the President kept in touch with him from that time on, seeking his advice in connection with various important questions of state.

It follows that they have been close friends, and they have corresponded freely. Mr. Baker was at one time the President's pupil. The thirty-day period for which Major-General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff, was designated as secretary of war as interim, will expire on Saturday, March 18, and Mr. Baker is expected to go to Washington in time to take the war portfolio before that time.

The conditions prevailing throughout the world at the present time and the demand for preparedness in our own land combine to attach more than ordinary importance to the war department. Regardless of politics we are all interested in having this position filled by the best possible available man.

Legal tangles are constantly arising in connection with our control of the Panama canal as well as in regard to the government of the Philippines and Porto Rico. As might be expected

## HOW VERMONT'S PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY WILL WORK.

The voters of Vermont having returned a majority for the direct primary system submitted to them in referendum in connection with last week's town meetings, the act takes effect in accordance with section 32 of the act automatically on the twentieth day of March next. The first duty of the voters of Vermont under this act will be the holding of presidential primaries, which so far as the trouble of voting is concerned simply take the place of the old caucuses for the election of delegates to the State convention for the purpose of electing delegates to the national conventions. This means merely a new form of the former caucus or primary, and does not involve an extra voting as wrongly asserted by some.

Opponents of the law allege that it abolished conventions and explicitly provides for conventions for the election of delegates to the national convention, and in addition it makes it possible for the voters individually to express their choice of a candidate for the presidency to be supported by their respective parties in the November election.

Section 26 of the act says that in every presidential year there shall be held a presidential primary in accordance with the provisions of the act for other primary elections so far as they are applicable. Such presidential primary is set for the third Tuesday of May of each presidential year, which occurs this year on May 16.

The secretary of State prepares and provides the ballots for the presidential primary, causing to be printed upon such ballots in columns by parties the names of all presidential candidates for whom nominating petitions have been filed in the same manner as in the case of a candidate for governor, including the candidate's written assent. Section 27 of the act reads in part as follows:

"The State committee of each party shall call a party convention under the regulations provided by the committee to be held within three weeks subsequent to the presidential primary. At such convention delegates and alternates to the national convention of such party to the number apportioned to the State shall be elected. Each delegate and alternate so elected shall be furnished by the secretary of State with a certified statement showing the vote cast at the presidential primary for the candidates of the party of which said delegate or alternate is a member."

It can be seen from this that the chief advantage of the direct primary in a presidential contest is that it allows the voters to vote directly for their choice for that office, so that the State convention and the delegation elected need not guess as to the position of the voters of the State.

There is no chance for snap primaries, for the law provides that the polls shall be kept open from twelve o'clock noon until eight o'clock in the evening, and workmen or those far from the polls thus have every facility for making their voices heard as to a choice of presidential candidates in their respective parties.

The official ballots must be prepared at least ten days before any primary is to be held. The names of all candidates are printed on one ballot, with the names arranged in columns by parties similar to the ballots in general elections. Each party column must be headed by the name of the party in plain type, so that there is no danger of emasculating the party as has been wrongly alleged.

Each voter in marking his ballot is expected to confine his marks to the column of the party of which he is a member. If when the ballots are counted it appears a ballot has been marked in the column of more than one party, it is to be thrown out as defective.

We will suppose, for example, that part of the republicans of Vermont desire to support McCall and others to support Roosevelt, while the democrats are divided between Wilson and Underwood. The supporters of Governor McCall, with his consent, would circulate a petition of nomination, 500 names being required to secure the printing of any man's name on the presidential ballot. The supporters of the other possible candidates named would proceed in like manner.

On the day of the presidential primaries the republicans would mark an X opposite their choice in the republican column, while democrats would mark opposite their candidate in the democratic column. The delegates to the Chicago convention would know whom the republicans of Vermont wanted for president, while the delegates to the St. Louis convention would be fully advised as to the choice of the democrats of Vermont.

If in addition to the choice of a president, a contest arose over the selection of delegates to the State convention, of course added interest, if not increased gaiety, would be added to the presidential struggle in Vermont.

The State convention will be in a position to formulate a declaration of principles dealing with national issues precisely as hitherto, and the voters of the respective parties will be able to seek to impress their views upon the national body in all these directions the same as in former conventions.

If it means anything to be an American citizen, it is worth much to be able to express one's own preference for a candidate for the presidency of the United States and not merely to "rubber stamp" a choice that has been made for you by somebody else. You are not debarred from writing on the primary ballot the name of any candidate you may prefer whose name is not printed thereon, so that the utmost freedom of expression of choice is provided in that part of Vermont's new primary law dealing with the nomination of a president of the United States.

If a man so desired declines to be considered a candidate for the presidency of the United States, then the voters are thrown back upon the choice of delegates who stand for the presidential candidate they prefer, and this can be brought about intelligently only through the declaration of candidates for delegates to the national convention as to their preference or by vote of the State convention.

The act provides that it shall be liberally construed "so that the real will of the voters shall not be defeated."

One section of the direct primary law provides for publicity as to campaign expenses. Section 24 says that a person who solicits, requests or demands directly or indirectly any money, intoxicating liquor or anything of value or promise thereof, either to influence his vote or to be used, or under pretense of being used, to procure the vote of another person to be used at any poll or other place prior to or on the day of the primary for or against a candidate for office shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars or be imprisoned not more than six months or both.

These provisions in conjunction with existing statutes against the use of money by candidates and directed against corruption in various forms throw every protection about the direct primaries. We shall consider other phases of the system dealing with State, senatorial, congressional and county nominations later on.

Under the circumstances, Mr. Baker is said to be in close touch with the administration in the directions indicated as well as in thorough sympathy with Mr. Wilson's preparedness and foreign policies. When interrogated by a newspaper correspondent regarding the President's first note to Germany, Mr. Baker said: "The most important objects of international policy are in times of peace to extend and in times of war to preserve the rights of neutrals. The President as the trustee of American rights realizes the importance of maintaining them unabated by the supposed military necessities of belligerents. The temper of his note is the temper of America, without anger, but with the firmness to maintain our rights."

That temperate, diplomatic, but firm tone given as a thumbnail portrait of the new secretary of war, if he carries out the policy of preparedness and deals with our foreign problems in that spirit he can hardly fail to make a successful secretary of war—that is if he is given a chance.

## BOLIVIAN TIN IN U. S.

Larger Consumption Likely Because of Increased Facilities for Refining.

In an article in the February number of the Bulletin of the Pan American Union, Washington, D. C., the writer deals with the subject of tin. He uses the location of the greatest tin mines in the western world, and incidentally explains why Bolivian tin has been so little used in the United States and why

the new electrolytic refining process will alter this state of affairs. He writes:

"Bolivia does not produce tin, but tin ore, not the metal but the mineral. True, there is some smelting done in Bolivia, but the metal produced, being unrefined, is not of the quality that the United States demands. Tin has many uses, but these may be grouped under three general heads: first, as an alloy metal; second, as an alloy with copper, zinc, antimony, lead, and other metals; third, as a plating for iron, steel, copper and other more easily corroded metals. Under the first head, tin is used in the form of certain pharmaceutical and scientific instruments and in the foil. Under the second, it is used in the production of bronzes, gun and bell metal, pewter, the whole group of so-called white metals, etc. Its use as an alloy being almost unlimited."

"It is under the third grouping, tin as plating, that the great bulk of tin imports into the United States finds its employment. Common tin plate is iron or steel, ordinarily the latter, covered with a thin coating of tin. The property which tin has of not tarnishing, or rather of being in a high degree resistant to the decomposing action of air, water, and the common acids, makes it a valuable material for the value to its use as a protective coating for the easily corroded iron and steel. The strength and rigidity of the steel protected by the tin furnishes an almost ideal material for the fabrication of all kinds of containers."

"It is in the development of the tin mining industry in the United States which has created the demand for containers made of tin plate and consequently for tin itself with which to make the tin plate. The United States uses in the tin mining industry, in the form of containers, as much tin plate as all the remainder of the world combined. According to the Mining World (Chicago), the importation of tin into the United States in 1914 was 12,000 short tons and in 1915 it amounted to 6,355 tons."

"Between the ore in the mine and the finished tin can there are a number of metallurgical, industrial, and economic processes. Conditions which make it understood in order to answer the question why Bolivian tin has heretofore not been extensively used in the United States. It is only a few years ago when nearly all the tin plate used here was imported from Europe, principally from Britain. Hence the development of the iron and steel industry has changed this condition, so that at present little or no tin plate is imported. This country now produces from Bolivian ore by the former methods of smelting contains impurities which render it unsuitable for the plating that the tin from the ore of the Straits. One of the impurities which make it unsuitable for plating is iron, and from this impurity the Straits tin is free. Ferrous tin, even though the iron content be exceedingly small, will not readily adhere to steel and iron plates. Hence the United States was compelled to use the East Indian tin. But the arts progress. Recently advances have been made in the industry of tin refining and smelting. Electricity is revolutionizing tin refining. Electrolytic tin is almost chemically pure tin. Analysis shows 99.98 per cent. pure, produced from metal ore 97 per cent. tin. Bolivian tin can be refined by the electrolytic process. The American Smelting & Refining Company has recently completed at Perth Amboy, N. J., a plant for the smelting of tin ores and concentrates, and the electrolytic refining of tin, and now the United States will doubtless prove a valuable market for the Bolivian product."

## HUGE WAR LOANS.

Have Doubled Debt of Every Fighting Nation Except Great Britain.

European war loans have exceeded a total to date of \$2,000,000,000, according to a compilation made by Dow, Jones & Co., of New York city. These figures represent a doubling of the debts of every fighting nation, with the exception of Great Britain, whose debts, due to the assistance given by her to her allies, have tripled.

Great Britain's debt, according to the statement, is less than that of France and also of Germany, providing the obligations of the German States are included. Great Britain's total war loans of almost \$2,000,000,000, approximately \$2,500,000,000 has gone to her allies. Following is a table showing the approximate war debts of the leading belligerent nations in billions of dollars:

	Previous War Debt	War Debt	Total
Great Britain	\$1,438	\$1,562	\$3,000
France	\$1,697	\$250	\$1,947
Russia	\$1,337	\$1,117	\$2,454
Italy	\$2,338	\$465	\$2,803
Total for Allies	\$7,466	\$3,932	\$11,398
Germany	\$1,518	\$4,115	\$5,633
Austria-Hungary	\$350	\$247	\$597
Turkey	\$40	\$74	\$114
Central Powers	\$2,008	\$3,435	\$5,443
Grand Total	\$27,272	\$20,919	\$48,191

The total charges of the war to the allies, according to the statement, is about \$2,000,000,000, while the cost to the Central Powers has been about \$100,000,000. The cost of the war at present is estimated at the rate of more than \$100,000,000 a day, or thirty-six and a half billions a year.

## WASHED BEFORE HAND.

In the lobby of a hotel the assembled delegates were discussing the servant problem, when Congressman Charles H. Bullock, South Dakota recalled a story. Recently a prominent man in a big Eastern town had refused to employ a new domestic, and as soon as the girl reached the house, a large questioning sentence started. "I suppose, Gwendolyn," remarked the man, "that they served the dinner in courses where you worked last night?" "Yes, ma'am," answered Gwendolyn, reflectively, "that is, they did sometimes and sometimes they didn't."

"I'm, I see," thoughtfully responded the man, and they continued. "Did they use finger bowls?" "No, ma'am," was the startling rejoinder of the domestic. "They always washed before they came to the table," Philadelphia Telegraph.

## WILLIES EXPLANATION.

William did not shine as a student, and his reports clearly proved this, yet he insisted to his mother that he was right at the top of his class.

"You see," he explained when one of his reports was under scrutiny, "that is, I was for excellent and that 'D' is for dandy."

## But, Permitted his Mother.

"The little girl across the street gets almost nothing but 'A's' on her reports."

"Well, mother," responded the boy, "I hate to give her away, but that 'A' stands for 'awful'—Shirleyport Times."

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Mrs. Emily Murray, 75, found on back bench, offers New York policeman \$1,000 if he will help her.

## VERMONT TAX LAWS

Tax Listers Get Points from Commissioner Plumley.

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on which a rate of interest less than six per cent. per annum is payable. You will then find the total amount of debt that he has incurred subsequent to the first day of March in the current year. You will add these totals together; you will then determine the total amount of the debts claimed and established by the taxpayer; you will then deduct the aggregate amount referred to in the second paragraph of No. 31 of 1915 from the total of the debts claimed and established by the taxpayer. If there is any remainder, 20 per cent. of such remainder shall be the offer for debts owing to be allowed to the taxpayer, provided, however, that such 20 per cent. shall in no case exceed \$100.

"You will notice that in addition to that to which I have already called your attention, the law provides that when a statement of indebtedness claimed is filed with you for offset purposes, it does not constitute an offer of debt, and you will send to each creditor of the taxpayer a notice in which you shall set the amount due him from the taxpayer, as shown by the statement of the taxpayer. Moreover if the creditor is a resident of the State of Vermont, you must send a similar notice to the listers of the town where such creditor resides. It will be necessary in order that your work be completed within the time provided by law, that these notices be made out and mailed as soon after you have received the inventory as the work can possibly be done."

Section 30 of the act provides that if you allow an offset to a taxpayer knowing the same to be contrary to the provisions of this act, you subject yourself to fine which may not exceed \$500."

## STATE Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

Annual Reunion of Camp Abnaki a Joyful Occasion.

The Burlington boys who went to Barre on Friday to attend the fifteenth annual reunion of Camp Abnaki on that day and Saturday returned home Saturday evening. There were over 60 in attendance and the reunion was a successful one. On Friday evening a supper was served at the Congregational Church, and it was followed by a good number of addresses, camp songs and yells. Howard L. Miller of this city presented for his family a large silver cup to the camp as a memorial cup for his brother, Marling T. Miller, who was drowned last October. This cup will be used as the individual record prize cup, and each year the boy who has the best record in all lines of camp work will have his name inscribed on it. Another feature was a large church flag, presented by Kenneth C. Nourse of Rutland. This flag will be used only on Sundays, and in the only flag that can be placed above the Stars and Stripes. After the supper program was over a campfire devotion service was held, led by the Rev. H. B. Rankin of Dartmouth College. April 14 to